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Crew chief profiles, see pg. 7

*Family Readiness information  
is available for 911th members  
and their families by calling  
1-800-235-7780 or  
(412) 474-8544.*

# Flyover

911th Airlift Wing

Air Force Reserve Command

Pittsburgh International Airport

[www.afrc.af.mil/911aw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/911aw)

August/September 2002

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Photo Courtesy The Tribune Review

In a formal Change of Command Ceremony, July 13, the wing welcomed a new commander, Col. Carl E. Vogt. He is filling the position left by Col. F. Baxter Lane, who officially retired from the Air Force.

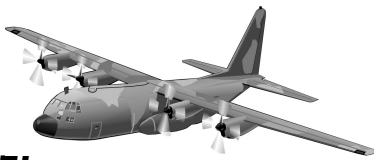


Air Force Reserve Command recognizes Julie Susa as the Nonappropriated Fund Analyst of the Year. Her award is a symbol of her accomplishment and shows her personal commitment to excellence.



Senior Master Sgt. Bartholomew Farzati has been selected as the 22nd Air Force recipient for the Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Barnes Award as Crew Chief of the Year. This is an outstanding accomplishment.





## Flyover

### Commander

Col. Carl E. Vogt

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<http://www.afrc.af.mil/911aw>

## NEWS

# Worship schedule change



### Catholic worship

UTA Saturday - 4 p.m.

### Protestant worship

\*Note - Protestant worship has changed from 3 p.m. of the Sunday UTA to 10:30 a.m.

# Taking Care of Our Own

## Command emphasizes suicide prevention during stressful time

In the aftermath of the tragic events of Sept. 11 and America's subsequent war on terrorism, Air Force Reserve Command officials are asking everyone to be especially mindful of the warning signs of suicide.

While suicide prevention has been a major AFRC initiative for several years now, it has taken on additional importance since last year's terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center towers.

During this calendar year, five Air Force reservists — one who was mobilized and four traditional reservists in civilian status — have committed suicide. AFRC leaders are concerned that an increased operations tempo combined with the added stress everyone has felt since 9-11 may be leading more people to consider taking their own life.

"The increased stress all of us have experienced, and continue to experience, since Sept. 11 is having an effect not only on military and civilian personnel but also on our families, friends and communities," Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., AFRC vice commander, said in a recent letter to numbered air force and wing commanders. Batbie wants anyone contemplating suicide to know help is available and that seeking assistance will not reflect negatively on reservists.

"I cannot emphasize enough that it is not a career-ending step to receive help

to deal with a personal issue, but suicide is," he said.

Recognizing someone is having problems is the first step. From there, co-workers need to know where to go for assistance if they think someone they work with might be contemplating suicide. Among those in a position to help are supervisors, first sergeants and commanders; chaplains; mental health professionals; security forces people and local police officials; family support specialists; legal professionals; hospital emergency room workers; and firefighters.

All of the Reserve's suicide cases this year have involved men, ranging in age from 38 to 58. Four died from gunshot wounds; the fifth from knife wounds. Four were enlisted members, and one was an officer.

The factor most commonly associated with suicide is problems in intimate relationships. Others include: abuse of alcohol or other substances; financial difficulties; legal problems; loneliness; prolonged, unmanageable stress; and depression.

"Asking someone what is wrong is one simple question that could save a life," said AFRC's suicide prevention program manager, Maj. Denise Thompson. (Citizen Airman)

# New commander serves with pride

**Moon Township** - "Sir, I relinquish command." These words marked the retirement of Col. F. Baxter Lane from his position as commander of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and from his 32-year career with the U.S. Air Force.

The formal ceremony on July 13, 2002, welcomed Col. Carl E. Vogt as commander of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, complete with troop inspection and the presentation of the colors. A variety of local dignitaries attended, including retired military personnel, politicians from the region, and relatives of both colonels.

Upon meeting their new commander, reservists from every squadron of the 911<sup>th</sup> stood proudly in formation, showing team spirit.

Battle dress uniforms mingled with dress blues, as visiting training instructors from Lackland AFB conducted drills.

After a moving farewell speech by Lane, the new commander took his turn at the podium.

"General Bankers, General Dorris, community leaders, family, friends, and members of the 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing," his words echoed throughout the hangar as Vogt addressed his new command with pride.

"Wow!! I am excited and proud to

*be your new wing commander. Such a day calls for giving thanks – to God, for leading me to this time and place, to Gen. Sherrard and Gen. Bankers, for their confidence in me, and to Gen. Dorris, for support and sponsorship, to Dee, for faithful accompaniment on our 31-year adventure, to the 'many' who have given counsel and advice.*

*The events of Sept. 11 were momentous. America and the world saw evil, clear, and exposed, stark and raw. Victory over such evil resides only in the purity of good.*

*These events placed you and I, all who wear the uniform, in an auspicious position. We are defenders of freedom. Our cause is true and just. The banner we carry is red, white and blue. And we rightfully should take great pride in our purpose: serving sacrificially to gain victory over terrorism.*

*Such a fight requires seeking and heeding sage advice. And so I draw on a passage recorded some 30 centuries ago – it was another change of command in a great nation. Let me paraphrase the record of First Kings, Chapter 2: Be strong (physically, mentally and spiritually) 2. Embrace integrity, hold to the truth. 3. Honor God (in thought and conduct).*



Col. and Mrs. Carl Vogt

*As I accept command, I ask each of you to serve with pride as integral members of this wing that is a part of the forefront of a great nation seeking victory of good over evil in an even greater Army. Thank you for being here. I look forward to serving God and country as your commander."*

## Policy change permits more Reserve athletes to compete

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force reservists who attend Air Force or higher-level sports training camps and compete in military-sponsored sporting events are now eligible for pay.

According to the Air Force Services Agency, Air Force Reserve Command athletes can now be placed on paid "man-day" status under the Military Personnel Appropriation program.

Previously, reservists who attended training camps were placed on an active-duty tour in order to receive lodging, travel and points, but were not paid. Now, the allotted MPA man-days cover pay and allowances, while the host training or competition base provides the lodging and travel expenses.

"We had capable competitors who wanted to participate in training but couldn't afford to take a week or two off from their civilian jobs," said Lynda Sheltmire, chief of the

recreational support in the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Services. "Now, Air Force competitors can be paid while they are training and competing."

Military athletes apply for training camps on an Air Force Form 303, Request for USAF Specialized Sports Training, a "resume" type document used to choose participants. Along with the AF Form 303, reservists submit an AF Form 49, Application for MPA Man-Day Tour, with their supervisor and commander's approval to use MPA days.

To be considered for Air Force sports competitions, reservists must mail both completed forms to HQ AFRC/SVPR, 255 Richard Ray Boulevard, Robins AFB, Ga. 31098-1637 no later than 60 days prior to the start of the respective training.

The Air Force Sports Calendar of events is available for viewing on a military computer at <https://www-r.afsv.af.mil/FT/Index.htm>. (AFRC News Service)



## FEATURE

# Commanders, coins and coal miners



Photo by Master Sgt. Cathleen Snow

Commander Vogt coins the Vice President Dick Cheney during his visit July 20, to outline strategic White House policies related to national security, judicial appointments and corporate ethics.



Photo by Aaron Spangler

President George W. Bush arrived at the 911th, Aug. 5, and greeted everyone with a wave hello. Commander Vogt sent him off with a salute before departing several hours later.

Story by  
Master Sgt. Cathleen Snow  
Flyover editor

On Aug. 5, President George W. Bush stopped at the 911th before attending a campaign luncheon downtown and before visiting the nine coal miners who were rescued this July.

The President met with the miners who were trapped for three days in the flooded Quecreek Mine in Somerset County. He met privately with them and their families in a Green Tree fire hall.

Afterward, Bush headed out on Air Force I, but not before Col. Carl E. Vogt, 911th Commander, saluted the commander-in-chief on the tarmac.

Several weeks earlier, Air Force II steadily made its way over to the 911th Airlift Wing's tarmac in the early afternoon of July 20 where Col. Carl E. Vogt awaited the arrival of the vice president with a grin and a 911th coin.

Vogt popped a military salute and extended his hand to greet the vice president, then the new 911th commander presented Cheney with the medallion.

After exchanging a few words, Cheney was off to speak to a crowd outlining strategic White House policies related to national security,

judicial appointments and corporate ethics in downtown Pittsburgh.

The commander's coin is awarded to outstanding achievers as a memento. It's pewter colored and emblazoned with Pittsburgh's skyline on one side. On the other, there's an American Eagle perched on a flag.

Stories on how coining originated in the military vary. This one dates back to World War I denoting one's squadron coin as a lifesaver.

During World War I, American volunteers from all over the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scions attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in midterm to join the war. In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze emblazoned with the squadron emblem for every member of his squadron. He carried his medallion in a small leather pouch about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallions, this pilot's aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small leather pouch around his neck. In the meantime, he was taken to a small

French town near the front.

Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he donned civilian clothes and escaped. He was without personal identification, however. He succeeded in avoiding German patrols and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed No-man's land and eventually stumbled into a French outpost. Unfortunately, the French in this sector of the front had been plagued by saboteurs. These saboteurs sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot's American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. Just in time, he remembered his leather pouch containing the medallion. He showed the medallion to his would-be executioners. His French captors recognized the squadron insignia on the medallion and delayed long enough to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him, they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back with his squadron, it became a tradition to ensure all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through a challenge.

Some information in this article came from [www.militarycoins.com](http://www.militarycoins.com)

## Reserve, Guard transitional health care benefits improve

WASHINGTON – A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard people who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, Reserve and Guard people who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Guard and Reserve members with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Under a worldwide demonstration project, family members are also covered under this plan. This program is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for these benefits will be determined by information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

“I think the No. 1 thing a member can do upon demobilization is to ensure their information in DEERS is correct,” said Col. Kathleen Woody, director of medical readiness and programs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. “That’s paramount because all of your benefits are contingent on the information in DEERS.”

The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to people who are eligible for this benefit, but only if the information in DEERS reflects their having served in support of a contingency operation such as Operation Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

“Our Reserve and Guard members and their families have sacrificed a great deal by responding to the call to duty in support of the war on terrorism,” Woody said. “We have an obligation to ensure that each individual is aware of this transitional health care benefit.”

Members and families who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime while the reservist was on active duty will automatically be disenrolled upon release from active duty. Reserve component or family members must actively re-enroll if they wish to continue TRICARE Prime during the transitional health care period.

An enrollment form is available on the TRICARE Web site ([www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)). No enrollment is necessary. (AFRC News Service)



**911th Airlift Wing  
Coin**

## Coining a tradition

*A love for tradition has never weakened a nation, indeed it has strengthened nations in their hour of peril.*  
Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Today United States Air Force Chiefs, proudly continue this tradition. Chiefs here, and several 911<sup>th</sup> units display their pride with coins unique to each of them.

### The Coin Rules of Engagement

- Thy coin shalt be on thy person at all times.
- Thou shalt be responsible for the security of thy coin at all times.
- Thy coin shan't be altered to allow for wear as ornamentation.
- If thy coin strikes a hard surface, it constitutes a coin challenge, and requires an immediate response.
- All other coin owners must then produce their coins.
- If everyone produces a coin, the challenger must buy drinks for the group. If a coin owner fails to produce a coin, that person must then buy the round for all those producing coins.

## Annual YTA

The annual 911<sup>th</sup> Youth Training Assembly will run this year from August 23 to 25. Reservists' children will participate in the three-day activities, including training sessions on first aid and tours of the base.

Started in 2000, the YTA is a 3-day, 2-night camp held at the 911AW during the August UTA, traditionally the last weekend in August. The camp is open to dependents, ages 7-12, of 911AW reservists, ARTS, retirees and civilians. The YTA is designed to introduce the children to different aspects of life on a military base so that they might become aware of and appreciate their parents' role in the Air Force Reserves.

Registration for this year is closed, due to the popularity of the event, but the YTA will be held again next year.

### Promotions

**To Master Sgt.:** James Beckman, 32 APS; Gerard Magnelli, 32 APS  
**To Tech. Sgt.:** Frederick Witsberger, 32 APS  
**To Staff Sgt.:** Stephen Pituch, 911 MXS  
**To Senior Airman:** Rebecca Pritt, 911 SFS  
**To Airman First Class:** Joshua Raddish, 911 SFS

## NEWS

# September named Armed Forces Voters' week

By Jayna Kellner  
Public affairs intern

November is only a few months away, and Election Day is fast approaching.

In an effort to help overseas military and civilian personnel submit their absentee ballots in time for the elections, the week of September 1 – 7 has been designated Armed Forces Voters' Week.

The program encourages overseas voters to register and to request their absentee ballots before the cut-off dates, which vary from state to state. For example, Pennsylvania requires the ballots to arrive before 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the elections, Ohio accepts state-side ballots up to the close of the polls on election day and until 10 days after the election for overseas ballots, and West Virginia accepts ballots up to three days after a primary and five days after a general election.

Because each state has special requirements and differ-

ent deadlines, both the voting assistance officers and the community involvement generated by the Armed Forces Voters' Week help to clear up the confusion that often accompanies the absentee ballot process.

In the past, this week has proved beneficial to the military's voting percentages. According to the 2000 Post-Election Survey, the Armed Forces boasted a 75% voting participation rate, as compared to 51% for the general population. This was a dramatic improvement over the 1996 military rate of 64%, prior to the implementation of Armed Forces Voters' Week.

Information on how to register and how to obtain an absentee ballot can be found on the website of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) at [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov). This site also contains state-by-state information on voting deadlines and procedures unique to each state.

*Editor's Note: Statistics are drawn from a statement issued by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, May 9, 2001.*



Photo by Master Sgt. Cathleen Snow

As the anniversary of 9/11 approaches, let us never forget that America is free, and nothing symbolizes that better than an American icon, the U.S. flag. The flag in front of Headquarters was flown at half-mast following the Sept. 11 tragedies as were flags across America until Sept. 22.

## Retiring Old Glory

When the United States flag (Old Glory) becomes worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it is time to replace it with a new flag, and the old flag should be "retired" with all the dignity and respect befitting our nation's flag. The traditional method of retirement is to incinerate the flag, but this does not mean that one should simply drop the entire flag (intact) into a fire.

A flag ceases to be a flag when it is cut into pieces. In addition, it is easier to completely incinerate the flag, if it is cut into smaller pieces. A flag should never be torn up like an old bed sheet. It should be cut up with scissors or shears in a methodical manner. The corners of the flag should be stretched out over a table top and someone should cut the flag in half, vertically (be careful not to cut up the blue star field (see the figure). Then, place the two halves together and cut them in half, horizontally. You will end up with four pieces of flag, one being the blue star field.

The reason we do not cut the blue star field is it represents the union of the fifty states and one should never let the union be broken.

Before accepting a flag for retirement, the recipient should obtain information about its history. For example: Where has it flown? How long? Did any memorable events happen at that site? This information should be used in the ceremony.

For more info on conducting a formal flag retirement ceremony, go to the Boy Scouts web page at [www.usscouts.org](http://www.usscouts.org)



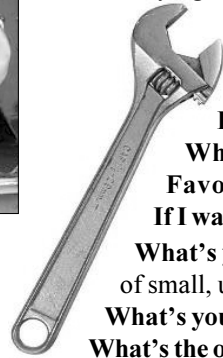


Master Sgt.  
Dale Choder

**Name:** Master Sgt. Dale Choder  
**Unit:** 911th Maintenance Squadron  
**Hometown:** Baldwin Borough  
**Job:** Crew chief  
**Job Scope:** Maintaining our C-130's for our worldwide commitments  
**Most rewarding job aspect:** Watching them take off and come back okay  
**Most demanding job aspect:** Too many airplanes, not enough people. Keeping up with the flying schedule



C-130 Hercules



## crew chief profiles

**Favorite saying:** Yo!

**Who'd play you in a movie:** Bruce Willis

**Favorite TV show/why:** Network news – keeps me informed

**If I wasn't working right now, I'd be...** doing something from the "honey do" list

**What's your favorite feature of the C-130 Hercules?** How it can get in and out of small, unfinished runways

**What's your least favorite feature?** Having to wash it

**What's the one crew chief task that you could do blindfolded?** Reconfiguring

**How many years have you been a crew chief?** 10

**Your definition of a crew chief?** Someone who cares for their aircraft like they care for their own car, and doing the best job you can because other people's lives depend on how well you do your job.

**What pet name do you call your plane?** "The Pen Queen" or "414"

**Hobbies:** Fishing and updating our new home

**Favorite band/music:** Stevie Ray Vaughan/rock

**Favorite food:** Anything Italian

**Favorite movie:** The Unforgiven

## Base 1-800 number - use it, don't abuse it

For those of you who didn't know, the base has a 1-800 number. For those of you who knew about the number, you also need to know that the number is for "Government Official Business Only."

The number is 1-800-235-7780 and since its inception has been incurring abuse.

Those who are going on a temporary duty may use the number to make one morale call per week to their families. When doing so, reservists should follow the following phone procedure: Identify yourself and your unit, and the number you are calling. For example, "This is Sgt. Smith from the 911th, AES, I'd like to place a morale call to area code..." slight pause, then the number. After you state the number, the security personnel receiving your call should repeat the number back to you, verifying that it is correct.

Due to the high volume of calls, patience is necessary when using the toll-free line, especially on weekends and after-hours, when the connection is the responsibility of the security desk. There are also restrictions on dialing to certain area codes.

In addition, for your banking convenience, the 911th Credit Union also has a toll-free number: 1-800-432-0262. This helps those who are deployed out of the area to do their banking from afar.

If you have any more questions, please call the Family Support Office at (412) 474-8544 or the base credit union at (412) 474-8208.

### F-22 Raptor



The F-22 represents an exponential leap in warfighting capabilities for the Air Force. It will enable the Air Force to:

- Defeat our greatest future threat: the next two generations of double-digit surface-to-air missile systems
- Defend itself and protect the F-117 and B-2, facilitating 24-hour stealth operations to counter enemy attempts to deny access
- Enhance joint warfare by gaining and maintaining air dominance, thus providing ground, naval and special operations forces with unimpeded access to their targets
- Engage mobile ground targets in any weather, 24-hours a day, deep within enemy territory with planned avionics improvements

## Spotlight



Master Sgt.  
Bruno Cappella

**Organization:** 911th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Job:** Site developer

**Job scope:** Drafting and surveying

**Most rewarding job aspect:** Seeing the finished product

**Most demanding job aspect:** Getting the job set up so the rest of the guys can get to work

**Hometown:** Cranberry Township

**Hobbies:** Playing with my son Jesse, hiking

**Favorite band/music:** Andrea Bocelli, Opera

**Favorite food:** Wings

**Favorite movie:** The Godfather

**Favorite saying:** Forget about it!

**Who'd play you in a movie:**

**Favorite TV show/why:** Alias, great action show

Robert DiNiro

**If I wasn't working right now, I'd be...**at home spending time with my wife and son.

### UTA Schedule

Aug 24-25 Sep 14-15

Oct 5-6 Nov 2-3

Dec 7-8 Jan 11-12

Aug payday is Sept 3

## Rescue team saves stricken Coast Guardsman at sea

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — A 920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group aircrew came to aid of an ailing Coast Guardsman July 23 after diverting from aerial patrols in conjunction with safeguarding Vice President Dick Cheney.

While patrolling about 40 miles off the coast of Cape Canaveral, the five-member, HH-60 helicopter crew received a radio message from a nearby Coast Guard cutter asking for assistance. The Coast Guardsman was apparently having a heart attack and needed to be airlifted from the ship to a medical facility. Ironically, the "Coastie" was on the same mission at sea as the helicopter crew.

The helicopter hovered near the cutter and two crewmen — 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rusty Bradshaw and Master Sgt. Lance Supernaw — jumped into the ocean with a patient litter and swam to the cutter. They climbed on board and treated the stricken Coast Guardsman. After he was stabilized, they placed him on the litter and he was hoisted up to the helicopter.



920<sup>th</sup> Rescue Group aircrew


After a 12-minute flight to Melbourne, the helicopter landed on a field near the Holmes Regional Medical Center. The patient was then transferred to paramedics from Holmes.

The HH-60 crew headed back over the Atlantic Ocean to rejoin the vice presidential security detail. The mission continued without incident for another three hours. After it was over, the rescuers returned to Patrick, where they learned the Air Rescue Coordination Center had credited them with another save.

(AFRC News Service from a 920th RQG news release).

911 AIRLIFT WING/PA  
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2475 DEFENSE AVENUE  
CORAOPOLIS PA 15108-4403

### OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Flyover printed on recycled and recyclable paper with soybean ink* 

### Office Recycling News

**Ink Cartridges, Compact Discs, and Microfiche:** Used toner cartridges, compact discs (CDs), and microfiche must be turned in to Supply, Bldg. 312. Toner cartridges must have return label/packaging included.

**Fluorescent lights:** Used fluorescent and mercury vapor containing lamps must be turned in to the 911th Environmental Flight.

**Miscellaneous Batteries:** Used miscellaneous batteries such as alkaline, sealed lead-acid, button cell, mercury, lithium, metal ion, and nickel cadmium must be turned in to the environmental flight.

For more information on recycling office items, contact the 911th Environmental Flight at (412) 474-8428.